

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A purified peptide that immunospecifically binds to a monoclonal antibody produced by hybridoma 1B6E12H9, deposited with the ATCC under accession number PTA-6531.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The peptide ~~described~~ claimed in claim 2 ~~which is immunogenic against *S. pneumoniae*~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 ~~or an immunogenic fragment of SEQ ID NO:6 that has at least six consecutive amino acids of SEQ ID NO:6~~.

7. (withdrawn) A peptide whose sequence results from the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a library comprised of random oligonucleotides, wherein the oligonucleotides are about 30-45 nucleotides in length;

(b) splicing the oligonucleotides of the library into the gene for the gene III coat protein of a filamentous bacteriophage in frame with the codons for the amino acid residues of the coat protein, wherein the gene for the gene III coat protein is contained within the bacteriophage genome, thereby creating a bacteriophage library, and wherein the oligonucleotides are positioned within the gene such that, when the coat protein is expressed and incorporated into a

complete bacteriophage particle, the peptide is available as an epitope to which an antibody can bind;

(c) expanding the bacteriophage library harboring the oligonucleotide library by culturing the bacteriophage library in a host which the bacteriophage infects;

(d) screening the expanded bacteriophage library for a specific bacteriophage particle that immunospecifically reacts with a monoclonal antibody obtained in response to immunizing an animal with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* pneumococcal surface adhesion A protein (PsaA) ; and

(e) sequencing the gene for the coat protein of the specific bacteriophage particle obtained in step (d) thereby yielding the nucleotide sequence of that member of the oligonucleotide library whose translation product has the sequence of the peptide potentially capable of eliciting protective immunity against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

Claims 8-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) ~~A therapeutic composition comprising one or more peptides that immunospecifically bind to a monoclonal antibody obtained in response to immunizing an animal with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* PsaA and that are immunogenic against *S. pneumoniae*, the peptides~~ a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 and an immunostimulatory carrier, ~~wherein the therapeutic composition confers protective immunity against *S. pneumoniae* infection when administered to a subject.~~

13. (withdrawn) A method for conferring protective immunity in a subject against *S. pneumoniae* infection, said method comprising the step of administering to the subject a therapeutic composition comprising one or more peptides that immunospecifically bind to a monoclonal antibody obtained in response to immunizing an animal with *Streptococcus*

pneumoniae PsaA and that are immunogenic against *S. pneumoniae*, the therapeutic composition further comprising an immunostimulatory carrier.

14. (withdrawn). The method described in claim 13, wherein the peptides comprise residues whose sequences are chosen from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:5, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:6, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:7, and a fragment of SEQ ID NO:8.

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled)

17. (withdrawn) A method for conferring protective immunity in a subject against *S. pneumoniae* infection, comprising the step of administering to the subject the therapeutic composition described in claim 16.

18. (canceled)

19. (withdrawn) A method for conferring protective immunity in a subject against *S. pneumoniae* infection, comprising the step of administering to the subject the therapeutic composition described in claim 18.

20. (currently amended) ~~A therapeutic composition comprising one or more peptides that immunospecifically bind to a monoclonal antibody obtained in response to immunizing an animal with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* PsaA and that are immunogenic against *S. pneumoniae*, the peptides a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 and an adjuvant, wherein the therapeutic composition confers protective immunity against *S. pneumoniae* infection when administered to a subject.~~

21. (withdrawn) A method for conferring protective immunity in a subject against *S.*

pneumoniae infection, said method comprising the step of administering to the subject a therapeutic composition comprising one or more peptides that immunospecifically bind to a monoclonal antibody obtained in response to immunizing an animal with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* PsaA and that are immunogenic against *S. pneumoniae*, the therapeutic composition further comprising an adjuvant.

22. (withdrawn) The method described in claim 19, wherein the peptides comprise residues whose sequences are chosen from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:5, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:6, a fragment of SEQ ID NO:7, and a fragment of SEQ ID NO:8.

23. (currently amended) A purified peptide that immunospecifically binds to a monoclonal antibody that binds the peptide of SEQ ID NO:6.

24. (new) The peptide described in claim 2 wherein the peptide is 10-25 residues in length.

25. (new) The peptide described in claim 2 wherein the peptide is 12-22 residues in length.

26. (new) The peptide described in claim 2 wherein the peptide is 15 residues in length.